

The Easley Messenger.

J. R. HAGOOD, Editor and Prop'r.

EASLEY, S. C., JANUARY 4.

[For the Messenger.

Answer to "Yes Or No."

Dear friend, I've listened to your suit.

You've asked me Yes or No?

I'm not the girl to act the flirt

To gain a transient beau;

Nor I the maid to turn away,

In anger and disgust,

The man who simply asks my hand

In good and loving trust.

I cannot frisk as coquettes frisk,

Nor do as traitors do;

My word is simple and my bond,

And shall be so to you;

I'm but a plain and honest girl—

At least, I try to be;

Whatever answer I shall give

You can depend on me.

I like to think of honest men—

Of men whose hearts are true,

I know their word will do to take,

And such I know are you.

You've asked me to become your wife.

That's all I should have heard,

I know you mean just what you say.

For you have passed your word.

You've told me that for one long year

You've loved me as your life;

Now, in answering "Yes or No,"

I tell you 'tis no strife.

"The deepest waters quiet sleep;

The shallow, murmuring low;"

All the answer "I give or ask

Is briefly—Yes or No."

If I say Yes, you'll be rejoiced;

You'll not despair, if No.

That's not the way I must be loved

By him who is my beau.

You're "but an honest business man,

As all your dealings show;"

But now young man, I'm not for sale,

I answer briefly—No!

W.

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 29, 1883.

CROP ESTIMATES.—J. R. Dodge,

Statistician of the Agricultural Department,

has just completed preliminary

estimates of the principal crops of the

year 1883, which are to be printed as

a special report for December. They

show that potatoes, as well as all other

roots, and oats, have grown luxuriantly

and yielded abundantly. The average

yield of corn per acre for the present

year, Mr. Dodge says, is nearly 23

bushels, or, more exactly, by preliminary

estimates, 22 7-10, which is within

12 per cent. of the average yield for a

series of years, or 1,531,366,835 bush-

els.

The wheat crop is slightly in excess

of 400,000,000 bushels, and the cotton

product, as shown by the December re-

turns, is about 6,000,000 bales. There

will be another investigation after the

close of the cotton harvest and the

shipment of a large portion of the crop,

when precise results can be approached

more nearly than has hitherto been

possible.

—Very few men are so stingy

that they will not share a kiss with

a pretty girl.

—The dark ages—a woman be-

tween twenty-five and sixty.

The Greenville Daily News and Our Taxes.

A comparison of the tax levies for this year and last year will suggest some questions to tax payers.

The State levy is five mills which is a fourth of a mill more than it was in 1883 on an assessment five millions less. In other words, the people will be required to pay about \$80,000 more next year than they did last year, although the Comptroller-General in his very complete and able report estimated that we would need about \$60,000 less than last year and that the necessary amount could be raised by a tax of four mills.

We have been increasing taxes steadily and persistently despite the revenues from the phosphates and the change of the penitentiary from a heavy cost to a source of revenue. In 1877-'78, the first year of undisputed Democratic sway, our State taxes were \$629,000; in 1878-'79 they were \$368,000; last year they were \$638,000; this year they are \$750,000. The counties are keeping step with the State, and about half of them the county taxation is higher than it was last year.

Now, when and where is this thing going to stop? How far are we going? We pay our State and county officers miserable salaries, we cramp legislation by short terms, our public schools are wretchedly inadequate. We save at all the small spigots and let the money flow out through the bung holes in thousands and tens of thousands.

Our whole system and idea of government must be changed if we are to prosper and maintain supremacy. The State must be run on business principles with as few men as possible, and those men good, fit and well enough paid to command their services. We must abandon luxuries, sentiment and speculation and come down to simplicity and commercial rules, refusing to spend a dollar for anything but the actual expenses of conducting a government and attending to the public business.

Our county governments ought to be remodeled, the number of officers reduced and the salaries of those who remain made adequate to support them comfortably.

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.—

Young men, banish all ideas of marrying wealth! Earn it, then you will appreciate it and know how to save it. If you cannot bring her a pure heart and an untarnished reputation bring her what a Greek maiden once said she would bring to her husband: What gold cannot purchase—a heart unspotted and virtue without a stain, which is all that descended to me from my parents." Get a wife who has what Dr. Watts calls "Wealth above what earth can grant and lasting as the mind." Then will married life be pleasant and agreeable, and the end be peaceful and triumphant.

—Subscribe for THE MESSENGER.

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Tinware and House Furnishing Goods at short-crop prices.

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At Wholesale, Cheaper than the CHEAPEST.

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Nov 9-1y

GRAND EXCURSION

To see the Circus will not create the excitement that our Bargains in Beds, Bureaus, Chairs, Tables, and everything pertaining

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A general line of Undertaker's Supplies always on hand.

Coffins trimmed at all hours, and in style to suit purchasers.

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GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, MILLINERY, BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, &c.

EASLEY, S. C.

—:o:—

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A new lot of Ladies Hats, Ribbons and Laces.

ALSO,

Just received, a new lot of Ready-made Clothing.

Special bargains in Boots and Shoes.

ALSO,

Just received, a Cheap lot of Groceries.

Give me a call, and I guarantee satisfaction.

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—:o:—

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Dec 14-1y